

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This response and amendment is made in reaction to the most recent rejection dated April 10, 2007.

Therein, the Examiner objected to claim 22 for informalities, and rejected claim 22 under 35 USC §112, second paragraph. As well, the Examiner objected to the specification under 35 USC §132 (a). The amendments to claim 22 all reflect this particular rejection. The claims now recite the relationship of the longitudinally disposed wave-shaped struts and the circumferential link. As well, the specification is amended to indicate that the wave-shaped struts have no straight sections. This is well disclosed in Figures 4, 6 and 7, so that no new matter is added. Entrance of this amendment is respectfully solicited.

As well, the claims were rejected under 35 USC §102 (b), as purportedly anticipated by Simon, US Patent No. 5,354,308. However, the Examiner has ignored the limitation that the wave-shaped struts have no straight sections. Simon clearly does not show this, in either of Figures 4 or 5 cited by the Examiner. As a result, the claims are not anticipated by Simon. As well, since the benefit of the waves (that is, greater flexibility) is not present in Simon, neither does Simon render the claims obvious under 35 USC §103.

Allowance of claims 21 and 22 is respectfully solicited.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

By: /Paul A. Coletti/
PAUL A. COLETTI
Reg. No. 32,019

Johnson & Johnson
One Johnson & Johnson Plaza
New Brunswick, NJ 08933-7003
(732) 524-2815
Dated: July 6, 2007
epm